



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/470,080	12/22/1999	SRIRAMM R. VANGAL	884.200US1	5754
21186	7590	01/15/2004	EXAMINER	
SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH, P.A. P.O. BOX 2938 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402			FOX, JAMAL A	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2664		

DATE MAILED: 01/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/470,080	VANGAL ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Jamal A Fox	2664	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 December 1999.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 7-11, 14-22, 26 and 27 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-3, 12 and 23-25 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 4-6 and 13 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 22 December 1999 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____ .
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ . 6) Other: ____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

2. Claims 23-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Volk et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,166,563). Referring to claim 23, Volk et al. discloses a legged driver (Fig. 2 and respective portions of the specification), comprising: a plurality of driver legs (Fig. 2 ref. sign 210), the driver legs sequentially (here it is understood that the legs are being enabled by following a certain order, col. 2 lines 54 - col. 3 line 24) enableable by a set of external signals (output data, col. 3 lines 4-17) to provide multiple driver strengths (here it is understood that the fact that the drivers are programmable represents multiple driver strengths, col. 2 lines 54 - col. 3 line 24).

Referring to claim 24, Volk et al. discloses the driver of claim 23, wherein each of the plurality of legs is identical (Fig. 2 ref. sign 210).

Referring to claim 25, Volk et al. discloses the driver of claim 23, wherein each of the plurality of legs has a different strength (binary relationship, col. 2 lines 51-55).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Diepstraten et al.

Referring to claim 1, Diepstraten et al. discloses a current location identification (Fig. 4, ref. sign 86), a destination location identification (Fig. 4, ref. sign 84), a distance between the current location and the destination location (col. 2 lines 53-57 and col. 2 line 66-col. 3 line 3), enabling a driver strength according to the determined distance (col. 1 lines 47-50 and col. 2 lines 53-63), but does not explicitly disclose a method for driver selection. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included a method for driver selection to the invention of Diepstraten et al. because anything that adjusts the power level of information packets used for transmissions between stations, as in Diepstraten et al., is a method for driving.

Referring to claim 2, Diepstraten et al. discloses determining a current location identification comprises interpreting hard-wired identification location bits of the driver (The Source Address (SA) is a hard-wired identification, col. 4 lines 1-13).

Referring to claim 3, Diepestraten et al. discloses determining a destination location identification comprises reading a plurality of destination location bits appended to a data packet (See (DA) col. 4 lines 1-13 and col. 4 lines 28-31).

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burton et al. in view of Volk et al.

Referring to claim 12, Burton et al. discloses a method for forwarding packets in a driver (col. 14 lines 20-32), but fails to teach the driver being a legged driver comprising: enabling sufficient legs in the driver to power a transfer of a packet from an input location to an output destination. Volk et al. discloses a driver with enabling legs in (col. 2 lines 51-63). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included the invention of Volk et al. to the invention of Burton et al. so that the proper output data can be supplied to the logic section as in Volk et al.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 7-11,14-22, 26 and 27 are allowed.
6. Claims 4-6 and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

7. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 305-3988, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 305-3988 (for informal or draft communications, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121
Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA. 22202, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

**8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the
examiner should be directed to Jamal A. Fox whose telephone number is (703) 305-
5741. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 6:30 AM - 5:00 PM.**

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's
supervisor, Wellington Chin can be reached on (703) 305-4366. The fax phone
numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)
872-9314 for regular communications and (703) 872-9315 for After Final
communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or
proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-
0377.

Application/Control Number: 09/470,080
Art Unit: 2664

Page 6

J.A.F.

Jamal A. Fox



WELLINGTON CHIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600